Lane County School Information Session: Suicide Alert

Lane County Public Health
Oregon Health Authority
3/17/2022

Welcome! We will get started at 12:05.
Purpose of this information session

• To inform and equip schools in Lane County as important partners in the collective suicide prevention efforts happening in response to the recent youth suicide increase.

• To gather information from schools about what is needed.

This informational meeting is for schools in Lane County. If any media are present, please contact Jason Davis: jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov
Introductions

• **Elisabeth Maxwell** (she/her), Prevention Supervisor at Lane County Public Health

• **Jill Baker** (she/her), Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator with Oregon Health Authority

• **Marissa Lovell** (she/her), School-Based Health Promotion Coordinator with Lane County Public Health
Housekeeping

• Please remain on mute for the duration of the presentation.
• There will be time at the end of the presentation for a moderated Q&A.
• Questions can go in the chat, and we will ask you to unmute if clarification is needed on your question.
• This meeting is being recorded and will be posted publicly.
We are humans. Hard topics bring feelings.

• The topic of this meeting is youth suicide.
• Feeling activated is a normal response to hearing not-normal information.
• Take care of yourself. If you need support, reach out.

Lane County Crisis Hotline at (541) 687-4000
Lifeline support available 24/7 at (800) 273-8255
Why is there a public health concern?

- Increase in youth (0-24 yrs) suicide deaths in recent months
- Over the past 5 months, 11 people in this age group from Lane County have died by suicide. These events meet the CDC definition of a suicide cluster – meaning that there have been an unexpected number of deaths in our region in this timeframe
- There is no evidence to suggest that these deaths are linked (i.e., the result of suicide contagion)
- On average 10-12 youth die by suicide in Lane County each year
Purpose of Incident Command System (ICS)

- Provides an organized response to a public health emergency
- ICS is an expanded version of the normal response provided by the Suicide Prevention Program in Public Health when youth and adolescents die by suicide in Lane County
- We have:
  - Identified staff for the response
  - Established objectives
  - Reviewed past ICS
ICS Objectives

- Create safety and mental well-being of affected people and public health responders
- Control the spread
- Conduct epidemiology/surveillance work
- Identify exposed populations
- Provide appropriate information
ICS Contact Information

Roger Brubaker – Lane County Postvention Lead
roger.brubaker@lanecountyor.gov  (541) 682-8731

Jill Baker – OHA Postvention Lead
Jill.Baker@dhsoha.state.or.us

Elisabeth Maxwell – Incident Commander
elisabeth.maxwell@lanecountyor.gov

Marissa Lovell – School Liaison
marissa.lovell@lanecountyor.gov

Jacqueline Moreno – Community Liaison
jacqueline.moreno@lanecountyor.gov

Jason Davis – Public Information Officer
jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov
Role of OHA in Supporting Lane County Public Health

- Suicide Rapid Response Program
- Member of Incident Command Team
- Helps to coordinate resources and support infrastructure
What are we doing for schools identified as directly impacted?

• Suicide RapidResponse program in place
• On-site support for youth and staff at directly impacted schools
• Connections to community resources
• Telehealth opportunities for youth and staff
• Lane County ESD supports have been mobilized
What are we hoping schools will do?

• First center on calm. **Promote hope, help, and strength.**

• Push out resources and information about wellness to your parents and school community. **Encourage parents and caring adults to ask the question about suicide.**

• Review your suicide prevention policies. **Know your Adi’s Act plan, ensure your staff know their roles, and implement the plan.** All Lane County schools are in compliance with Adi’s Act.
What are we hoping schools will do?

• Look for ways to increase protective factors for your students, and to mitigate risk factors when possible.

• Support your **Sources of Strength** teams (if not currently active, many will be coming in Fall 2023).

• **Tell us what you need and how we can support you!** (Reach out to Marissa)
Options for Additional Support

Toolkit for how to communicate to parents

- Safe messaging about suicide
- Scripts for emails/newsletters
- Resources for over spring break (and beyond)

Resource Option: Host a community listening session

- Facilitation support
- Outline provided
- Subject Matter Experts as speakers
- Messages of hope, help, strength
Options for Additional Support

Tangible items available:
- Grief Journals
- Safe Storage for medication and firearms

Financial support available:
- Adi’s Act mini-grants through Lines for Life
- Sources of Strength mini-grants for campaigns through Matchstick.

Consultation: Roger Brubaker, Jill Baker, Marissa Lovell
Let’s pause.
Questions?
Next Steps

Questions that were not able to be answered live will be answered in writing and sent to the list of registrants.

A recording of this information session will be posted on the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lane County website by 3/18/2022.

Please direct any media inquiries to the Public Information Officer, Jason Davis, jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov
Resources:

- Lane Co Suicide Prevention Coalition website.
- OHA’s Big River programming map.
- Survey Monkey to request supports.